

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SPC-03 EUR-25 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00

SWF-02 SS-20 NSC-07 PC-04 USIE-00 DODE-00 INT-08

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 095644

O R 262125Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3224

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, SWEL

SUBJ: DROUGHT IN EAST AFRICA

REF: STATE 057894

1. MISOFF DISCUSSED EAST AFRICAN DROUGHT SITUATION WITH BRAD MORSE, USYG FOR POLITICAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS, WITH PAUL MWALUKO, UNDP AREA DIRECTOR FOR EAST AFRICA, AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, AND WITH BJORN JOHANNSON, UNDP PROGRAM OFFICER FOR THE SUDAN. PICTURE THAT EMERGES IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. MORSE NOT AWARE OF ANY INDEPENDENT SECRETARIAT ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION, ADEQUACY OF CURRENT RELIEF EFFORTS OF STATUS OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING

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FOR EAST AFRICA AS A WHOLE OR FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY,

WITH REGARD TANZANIA AND SOMALIA, MORSE UNAWARE OF ANY DROUGHT CONCERNS THESE TWO COUNTRIES. WITH REGARD SUDAN, HE INDICATED THAT SUDANESE HAD REQUESTED MORSE TO INCLUDE SUDAN IN MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SAHEL, BUT THIS REQUEST EVIDENTLY RELATED TO FEELING THAT SUDAN COULD BENEFIT FROM EFFORTS IN THE SAHEL IN GENERAL RATHER THAN RELATED DIRECTLY TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT EXIST IN THE SUDAN. MORSE, OF COURSE, FULLY COGNIZANT OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA IN VIEW ETHIOPIAN APPEALS IN THE UN SYSTEM, BUT AS NOTED ABOVE SECRETARIAT HAS MADE NO INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT THIS SITUATION. FOR KENYA, MORSE AWARE OF POSSIBLE DROUGHT BUT AGAIN NO ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN.

3. CONVERSATIONS WITH MWALUKO AND STAFF AND JOHANNSON REVEALS MORE COMPLETE PICTURE. COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ASSESSMENT AS FOLLOWS:

4. TANZANIA. OVERALL ASSESSMENT IS THAT ALL INDICATORS POINT TO DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR DROUGHT PROBLEM THIS COUNTRY. THIS ASSESSMENT BASED ON FACT THAT TANZANIA, NORMALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOODSTUFFS, HAS RECENTLY PLACED ORDERS FOR IMPORTS AS FOLLOWS: 16,500 TONS RICE, 85,000 TONS MAIZE, 40,000 TONS WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR, ASSESSMENT ALSO REFLECTS FACT THAT RAINS OVER PAST THREE YEARS HAVE BEEN DIMINISHING, WITH PROSPECTS FOR STILL EVEN LESS RAIN UPCOMING RAINY SEASON; ON FACT THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM FOR VILLAGES HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL, WITH RESULT THAT FOOD CONSUMPTION HAS INCREASED, PARTICULARLY IN NON-TRADITIONAL COMMODITIES; AND ON FACT THAT CATTLE HERDS HAVE BEEN HIT "VERY HARD." WITH REGARD, ADEQUACY OF RELIEF EFFORT, UNDP OFFICIALS UNABLE TO COMMENT SINCE THEY HAVE NO INFO ON RELIEF ACTIVITIES. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT TANZANIAN CONTINGENCY PLANS, RESPONSE WAS THAT UNDP UNAWARE OF ANY CONTINGENCY PLANS, ALTHOUGH FEELING WAS EXPRESSED THAT TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO HAVE THOUGHT OF NEED FOR CONTINGENCY PLAN.

5. ETHIOPIA. OVERALL ASSESSMENT IS SITUATION SERIOUS  
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AND GETTING WORSE IN VIEW DEVELOPMENT OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN PROVINCES. THIS ASSESSMENT NOT BASED ON LIST OF PARTICULARS AS IN CASE TANZANIA. WITH REGARD ADEQUACY OF RELIEF ACTIVITIES, UNDP OFFICIALS NOTED THAT RECOVERY PROGRAM DRAWN UP BY FAO AND SUBMITTED TO LAST UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL NOW ALMOST TOTALLY SUBSCRIBED TO, EXCEPT FOR PROVISION OF TRACTORS. OFFICIALS ALSO NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO FAO APPEAL,

APPEALS BY UNDRO AND UNICEF APPEARED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. UNDP OFFICIALS ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF DEVELOPING SITUATION IN SOUTHERN PROVINCES, RELIEF ACTIVITIES ON THE WHOLE PROBABLY INADEQUATE; ALSO THAT FOR NORTHERN PROVINCES TRANSPORTATION VERY SERIOUS (IN THIS CONTEXT OFFICIALS PROPOSED THAT HELICOPTERS BE USED TO TRANSPORT FOODSTUFFS RATHER THAN TRACTORS). IN SAME CONTEXT, OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT AS OF FOUR WEEKS AGO THEIR ASSESSMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES OF IEG WAS GOOD, BUT WITH UNSTABLE SITUATION THAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE, THE SITUATION IS NOW UNCERTAIN. WITH REGARD CONTINGENCY PLANNING, UNDP OFFICIALS UNAWARE OF CONTINGENCY PLANS.

6. KENYA. OVERALL ASSESSMENT IS THAT SITUATION BORDERING ON THE SERIOUS BUT NOT THERE YET; NOT NEARLY AS BAD AS ETHIOPIA OR TANZANIA. THIS ASSESSMENT REFLECTS FACT THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE SURPLUS CROPS IN COUNTRY, BUT THAT DISTRIBUTION A PROBLEM; KENYA ALSO EXPERIENCED LESS THAN NORMAL RAINFALL. WITH REGARD TO ADEQUACY OF RELIEF, RECENT REPORT FROM RESREP INDICATES THAT GOVERNMENT IS TAKING NECESSARY MEASURES TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD. ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING SIDE, UNDP OFFICIALS UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH PLANS. (UNDP OFFICIALS SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT KENYAN GOVERNMENT PROBABLY MORE RELUCTANT TO ADMIT DROUGHT CONDITION THAN MOST GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE OF THE EFFECT THIS MIGHT HAVE ON TOURISM.)

7. SOMALIA. OVERALL ASSESSMENT IS THAT THERE IS NO DROUGHT OF ANY APPRECIABLE SEVERITY, ALTHOUGH SITUATION SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR. THIS ASSESSMENT BASED ON FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN FOOD IMPORTS; THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF DEATHS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN CATTLE POPULATION; AND THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO UNUSUAL MIGRATION OF NOMADS TO CENTERS OF POPULATION. COMMENT ALSO MADE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE COULD BE SOME DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE NORTH; ALSO THAT IF THERE WERE ANY EVIDENCE OF DROUGHT (SUCH AS AFOREMENTIONED INDICATORS) THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD ATTEMPT TO MAKE EVIDENCE "UNOBSERVABLE." IN VIEW THIS ASSESSMENT, QUESTION ON ADEQUACY OF RELIEF NOT RELEVANT. WITH REGARD CONTINGENCY PLANS AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, UNDP OFFICIALS NOT AWARE OF ANY. SCALI

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8. SUDAN. ASSESSMENT IS THAT SITUATION SERIOUS IN WESTERN SUDAN (NO DROUGHT IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY). THIS ASSESSMENT BASED ON FACT THAT SORGHUM AND MILLET CROP FAILED LAST SEASON THIS AREA AND INCREASE IN ANIMAL DEATHS. SITUATION COMPLICATED BY MIGRATION OF CHADIANS INTO AREA AND BY INTERNAL MIGRATION OF SUDANESE FROM AFFECTED AREA TO THE SOUTH. SITUATION WILL BECOME CLEARER WHEN RESULTS OF UNDP/UNICEF/FAO MISSION TO AFFECTED AREA ARE KNOWN (IT REPORTED THAT WORK OF THIS MISSION SHOULD NOW BE COMPLETED). WITH REGARD RELIEF OPERATIONS, OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK NOT AWARE OF ANY. HOWEVER, IT POINTED OUT THAT THERE PROBABLY IS SURPLUS OF FOOD IN COUNTRY, BUT THAT ABILITY TO MOVE IT TO AFFECTED AREA HINDERED BY SERIOUS TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES, POOR ADMINISTRATION AND LACK OF STORAGE. UNDP OFFICIALS UNAWARE OF CONTINGENCY PLANS.

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9. WITH REGARD PARA 7 REFTTEL, USUN NOT IN POSITION TO SUGGEST SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION IF USG SHOULD CONSIDER SUPPLEMENTING CURRENT RELIEF EFFORTS. WITH REGARD POSSIBLE ACTIONS USG MIGHT SET IN TRAIN NOW TO RESPOND IN TIMELY FASHION SHOULD DROUGHT WORSEN, WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO OECD DOCUMENT DAC (74) 2 DATED FEBRUARY 22, 1974 ENTITLED "INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF." THIS PAPER WAS TO BE PRESENTED TO DAC FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS MEETING OF MARCH 12 AND 13, 1974. PAPER MIGHT BE USEFUL IN DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATIONS, PARTICULARLY ASPECTS DEALING WITH DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (E.G., NEED TO ESTABLISH BEFOREHAND THE MACHINERY FOR INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION; NEED TO ESTABLISH WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE OFFICE FOR ASSESSMENT OF DISASTER CONDITIONS AND NEEDS; NEED TO IDENTIFY BEFOREHAND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN HOST GOVERNMENT TO EXECUTE DISASTER RELIEF; NEED TO STRENGTHEN AHEAD OF TIME HOST GOVERNMENT'S LOGISTIC CAPABILITIES; AND NEED TO COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE BASIC COUNTRY DATA RELEVANT TO RELIEF AID). CHECK OF SUGGESTIONS MADE IN THIS DOCUMENT MIGHT BE USEFUL IN EVENT USG SHOULD WISH TO TAKE STEPS IN ANTICIPATION OF OR WORSENING OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

10. COMMENT. PARAS 4-8 REFLECT JUDGMENTS OF WORK-A-DAY TYPES IN UNDP. EACH APPEARED TO KNOW HIS GEOGRAPHIC AREA WELL, BUT IT NEVERTHELESS OBVIOUS THAT PROBABLY WITH EXCEPTION ETHIOPIA JUDGMENTS NOT REFLECTIVE OF ANY IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS. IT ALSO OBVIOUS THAT WORK-A-DAY OFFICIALS CONCERNED, BUT IT DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE THAT CONCERN ARISING FROM EXPERIENCE IN AREAS AND FROM THE FACTS AND THAT CONCERN GENERATED BY LOOKING AT SITUATION THROUGH DROUGHT-COLORED GLASSES, WHICH IN VIEW OF SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION IN SAHEL AND GENERAL DESIRE NOT TO GET BURNED BECAUSE OF LATE RESPONSE TO EMERGING CRISIS IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE WISEST STANCE TO TAKE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DISASTER RELIEF, DROUGHTS, MEETINGS, IMPORT DATA, FOODS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740313/aaaaamcn.tel  
**Line Count:** 260  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 057894  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DROUGHT IN EAST AFRICA  
**TAGS:** AORG, SWEL, XW, UN, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005